AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, line 4, please insert the following paragraph:

-- SEQUENCE LISTING SUBMITTED ON COMPACT DISC

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.52(e)(1)(iii), a compact disc containing an electronic version of the Sequence Listing is submitted with this application, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference. A second compact disc is submitted and is an identical copy of the first compact disc. The discs are labeled "copy 1" and "copy 2" respectively, and each disc contains one file entitled: "2007-04-15 0933-0249PUS1.ST25" which is 290 KB in size and was created on April 9, 2007. --

On page 9, line 14, please replace the original paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

-- **Fig. 15:** Sequence alignments of the predicted polypeptides encoded by the I-XI splice variants of AAA1 (CLUSTAL W program) (SEQ ID NOs: 19,21,23,25,29,31,33,35,37,39, and 41). The conserved region of the AAA1 encoded polypeptides is in bold. --

On page 61, line 12, please replace the original paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

-- To further investigate the translation of the AAA1 gene, a polyclonal antibody against the constant region (YVRRNAGRQFSHC) (SEQ ID NO: 42) of the gene product was produced in rabbits. AAA1 peptide synthesis and antibody production were purchased from Sigma-Genosys Ltd (London Road, Pampisford, Cambridge). To test the specificity of the antibodies, Glutathione S-transferase (GST) -fusion proteins for AAA1 were produced with the pGEX 4T-3 GST fusion expression vector (Amersham Biosciences) according to the manufacturer's instructions. (Figure 21). The antibody displays high affinity against the the recombinant AAA1 protein produced in bacterial lysate with no cross-reactivity between

the GST construct alone. In spite of that, the antibody did not reveal any reactivity either in Western blots (spleen, skeletal muscle, uterine muscle, colon muscle, colon epithelium, kidney, testis and prostate) or in immunohistochemistry (bronchial tissue, HepG2 cell line) (data not shown). --

On page 67, line 5, please replace the original paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

-- Table 1A. (SEQ ID NOs: 43-78) --

On page 68, line 1, please insert the following new paragraph:

-- Table 1B. (SEQ ID NOs: 79-136) --

On page 75, line 1, please replace the original paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

-- **Table 4**. Primers used in the cloning of *GPRA*. (SEQ ID NOs: 137-157) --

On page 76, line 1, please replace the original paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

-- Table 5. Primer pairs used in re-sequencing of the exons and exon/intron boundaries of *GPRA* (SEQ ID NOs: 158-181) --

On page 77, line 1, please replace the original paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

-- **Table 6A.** Primers used in *GPRA* SNP genotyping (SEQ ID NOs: 182-184). --

On page 78, line 1, please insert the following new paragraph:

-- Table 6B. (SEQ ID NOs: 185-192) --

On page 79, line 1, please replace the original paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

-- **Table 7.** SNPs found in the exons of six splice variants of *GPRA* (SEQ ID NOs: 193-206). --

On page 81, line 1, please replace the original paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

-- **Table 9.** Primers used for cloning of full length cDNAs for AAA1 (SEQ ID NOs: 207-218). --

On page 82, line 1, please replace the original paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

-- Table 10. Primers used in SNP genotyping with SBE method (SEQ ID NOs: 219-227). --

On page 83, line 1, please replace the original paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

-- **Table 11.** Exon-intron structures and splice junction sites of AAA1 (SEQ ID NOs: 228-266). Gray area shows the exons and introns located in AST1.--